



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, July 16, 2014
Thomas C. Passios Building- 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin
Colleen Shapiro-absent
Brendan Grady
Heather Sroka

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Guests

Jamie Toale, Building Re-Use Committee

* Call to Order – Dr. Gregory Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

* Review and Approve Minutes:

- June 4, 2014 Regular Session Minutes
- June 18, 2014 Regular Session Minutes

Minutes were approved by the Committee.

* Review and Approve Warrants – No warrants were on the table for signatures.. There were no line item transfers. School Committee member approved the list of encumbrances from 2014 general operational budget. Superintendent Calmes recognized the work of Ms. Curley, Business manager and Ms. Cooper, Accounting/Data Manager as to the budget. Every grant has been used to its capacity, very few amendments were made. Compliments were also extended to principals and staff for their efforts this year in making the necessary budget adjustments as a result of increased out-of-district tuitions.

* Superintendent's Report

- Personnel Updates-

1. Ms. Leslie Spuria has been hired for the 3rd grade teaching position at the Primary School. Previously she had been a tutor, and a teacher in the summer program. She has a Masters Degree from Lesley University and was a lead teacher in a private school in Brookline.
2. Ms. Jimena Pinales-Santiago has been hired as a Spanish teacher for LHS. She was a student teacher at LHS last fall and has tutored students from Worcester State. She is bilingual, and has received a degree in Spanish from Worcester State University.
3. Ms. Laura Wyld has been hired as the new ELL teacher in order to address the growing population of ELL students within our district. Currently we have families from China, Portugal, Russia, and more. Ms. Wyld is licensed at elementary and secondary levels will be helpful in providing direct services to students at various levels.
4. Ms. Amy Jones signed her contract as the new 4th grade special education teacher replacing Molly Mulherin at THMS. She did her student teaching with Mrs. Bilotta here in the Primary School.
5. Secretarial position at LHS is open as Ms. Tina Cooney has been appointed to Ms. Szocik's Administrative Secretary position.
6. We've received a letter of resignation from Mrs. Mary Ann Weisman, special education teacher at the Primary School who has been with us for 14 years and has contributed greatly to the support

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of many of our students. Congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Weisman. The Superintendent will be releasing all of the personnel updates publicly in the next several days.

- Extended Day/Summer Programs- 35-40 students every day this summer. 1-10 ratio, staff to students. Mr. Dave Berthiaume of the Lions Club provided a tent and fresh fruit every day. Trips this summer have included Lego Land last week, Southwick's zoo, and bowling. Computer based enrichment opportunities have been offered. Ms. Hanscom serving 51 students in her ESY special services program. Exciting new social pragmatic program, partnering with the Teen Center to foster social and conversational skills. Lions Club offered students to attend a gathering at one of the lakes in town for an event. Connection between students and community. Continue for another 3 weeks. 8:30am-1pm daily. FLLAC operated summer program at TCP as well. Worked with Mr. Londa to provide air conditioning.
- Thank you letter from Mr. Howard president of Firefighters Association thanking the school and community for another successful bonfire event was shared with the Committee.
- Phone cables- Mr. Londa spoke to lines running underground from Brooks House to TCP will be cut when new field is built. Tomorrow old lines will be down while new lines are being worked on. Four lines will be reduced. Posted at website, and email sent town wide. Only affects TCP and Brooks House.
- Grant Awards- Title I down from last year. Title II down as well. Grant 240, special services up \$4330. Grant 298 up as well for professional development. Next meeting will have closed out all of the funds and can provide another update. One student returned as an in- district student.

* Student Representative's Report: none

* School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin reported the School Building Committee met last Wednesday the 9th. The architect is meeting schedule on design at 60% and 90%. The 90% documents are due to the MSBA by end of August. MSBA has released the completed, final executed document for Project Scope and Budget Agreement. The School Building Committee is meeting tomorrow night again to approve initial and guaranteed price. The construction manager guarantees the cost of the project, then solicits bidders to get to that number. Initial package will be started with ordering materials, and staging. A second package for steel work may be necessary. The District has been provided a diagram of staging area indicating fencing, truck entrance, etc. Mr. Mackin reported that 22 people attended the first abutters' meeting and that he felt the meeting was positive and that many good questions were asked. Additional meetings will be scheduled. He reported that 238 abutters were sent notices of the meeting. Shawmut representatives at the meetings assured residents that they were always available to answer questions. The traffic-construction entrance is off Oak Avenue. Superintendent Calmes reported that pick up lines/drop off line concerns were expressed by abutters at the meeting.

* Public Comment: None

* New Business:

- a. Building Re-Use- Jamie Toale formally requested process to transfer any excess unneeded property from school to town. SC has already had a discussion and agreement on TCP and Brooks House. There is a need for taking the next step and identifying the land will be included in this process. There is nothing in the budgets of any of the committees for this survey. There is an ongoing concern regarding adequate parking for large events. Planning Board questioned if there was a plan to deal with game day overflow. For discussion purposes an unofficial diagram illustrating potential land allocation relative to TCP was shared. Dr. Berthiaume proposed approaching MSBA with the question of acreage, in order to draft a conceptual line on the parcel of land to make an agreement with the building use committee, and then survey. There would not have a final transfer until someone was interested in property and survey was completed.
- b. Superintendent's Goals for FY15- student learning goals continuation, completed first phase moving on to second which is providing the opportunity for community service learning projects. Empty Bowls Project is one example, Starting professional development this year. Another potential goal is around a one-on-one computing initiative tied to the building project. How such a program would be sustained need to be outlined. Dr. Berthiaume indicated that it would be useful to put a date on this to have a discussion- before April 2015. We need to minimize the annual impact on the operational budget.

Professional practice draft goals included 5 joint classroom observations in each building with follow-up discussions with principals. Mr. Grady would like each principals feedback as well. Additional goal of providing school committee packets 4 days prior to each meeting. Mr. Grady posed the question as to a District Improvement Goal to bring students back into the district from out of district placements? Ms. Sroka asked about a goal of researching why students are choosing to go to charter schools or other public schools. Mr. Grady asked to write a draft goal on this topic and present at a future meeting.

* Old Business –

a. SC Meeting Calendar- planning two meetings in August? There may not have a quorum for one or both of the meetings but will leave these on schedule for now. Superintendent Calmes indicated a need for first reading of policies in August. Will see what needs are around items. Relative to the TCP building and property it was suggested that since the initial plan option was drawn by Mr. Warner he should be approached about drawing a conceptual diagram for SC for discussion in August or later once the discussion with the MSBA is complete.

b. Workshop Dates- A workshop to review MCAS performance data-in depth was suggested for sometime in October after official public release of the results. It was the consensus of the Committee that the best time for this workshop was in the evening, possibly in September. It was stated that the Committee was unable to achieve its goals from the prior year surrounding reducing fees and perhaps the Committee needed to think more modestly in future. Mr. Mackin also commented that a formal groundbreaking ceremony for new building project will be discussed at an upcoming School Building Committee. He indicated that the SBC is looking at September or October, possibly homecoming weekend.

* Public Comment – Ms. Luck asked for clarification around the proposed one on one initiative asking if we would be ordering less textbooks in response to that? Superintendent Calmes commented that had been identified as a potential area for savings, but since we have not had adequate funding to purchase textbooks in recent years it will not necessarily translate as such. She added the District has been looking a more and more open source materials, but even those have costs associated with copying. While a 1-on-1 computer initiative will decrease the number of hard/soft cover workbooks, books and textbooks it will not totally eliminate need..

* Reports

- a. Finance Committee –Dr. Berthiaume reported that they had not met.
- b. School Councils – have not met.
- c. PTO – Ms. Shapiro reported that the meetings were done for the year.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee: have not met.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – They are done for the year.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee – have not met.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported that they had not met.
- h. Acceptance & Diversity Committee: final presentation was made to school committee on 6/18/14.
- i. Building Re-Use : Mr. Mackin reported that they met week ago Monday and the Re-Use “Committee recommend that Mr. Toale meet with the School Committee..
- j.

* Items for Future Discussion:

* Executive Session – Dr. Berthiaume stated there was no need for Executive Session. Mr. Mackin made a final motion to adjourn regular session. Mr. Grady seconded. Vote: Unanimous

* Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. at the conclusion of regular session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen
Recording Secretary

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